

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated peptide having antimicrobial activity and an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

WCFZ₃VCZ₂RGZ₃CRZ₂KCRR,

Z₂RWCFCRVCYZ₃GZ₂CZ₂Z₅Z₂CR,

RRWCFZ₅VCZ₃RGZ₄CYZ₄Z₄CRZ₁,

RZ₂WCZ₃Z₂Z₃CYRGFCZ₃Z₂Z₅CR,

RRWCZ₃RVCYZ₄GFCYRKCR, and

RRWCFRVCYRGZ₃FCYRKCR;

wherein Z₁ is a basic amino acid residue or no amino acid residue; Z₂ is a basic or aromatic residue, Z₃ is a basic amino acid residue, Z₄ is arginine, valine or alanine, and Z₅ is an aromatic or aliphatic amino acid residue.